

ANNEX 9 (ESF-9)

SEARCH AND RESCUE

PRIMARY: Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Division of Fire and Life Safety

SUPPORT: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Law Enforcement; Department of Health and Environmental Control; Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism; Department of Transportation, Division of Engineering; Forestry Commission; SC Law Enforcement Division; Civil Air Patrol

I. INTRODUCTION

Search and Rescue consists of two components:

- A. Urban search and rescue is the process of locating, extricating, and providing initial medical treatment to victims trapped in collapsed structures or rescuing or removing persons threatened or stranded in harm's way by any emergency or hazardous event when they cannot remove themselves.
- B. Rural search and rescue activities include, but are not limited to, emergency incidents involving locating missing persons, locating boats lost in or around coastal waters or inland waters, water rescue, locating downed aircraft, extrication if necessary, and first responder first-aid medical treatment of victims.

II. MISSION

To provide assistance to local authorities for search and rescue operations anywhere in South Carolina. Provide support directed by the Governor, in support of regional emergency management compacts.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. The Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; Division of Fire and Life Safety, is responsible for the coordination of all ESF-9 administrative, management, planning, training, preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities to include developing, coordinating, and maintaining the ESF-9 SOP. All ESF-9 supporting agencies will assist the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; Division of Fire and Life Safety, in the planning and execution of the above. Due to its unique capabilities, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Law Enforcement is responsible for the coordination of all rural search and rescue operations. All ESF-9 personnel will be trained on the principles of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command and integrate those principles into all ESF-9 planning and response operations.

- B. Coordination with all supporting and other appropriate departments/agencies and organizations will be performed to ensure continual operational readiness.
- C. Local governments shall organize, train, equip, and employ local teams and resources; conduct periodic testing of team capabilities; and be prepared to coordinate the integration of local efforts with state and federal assistance teams when necessary.
- D. Local governments are responsible for the activation of plans and appropriate use of personnel and equipment for search and rescue missions. In coordination with, and in support of, the State Assessment Team (SAT), ESF-9 will assess the situation (both pre- and post-event), and in coordination with local emergency management officials, develop strategies to respond to the emergency. Local emergency management organizations may coordinate with adjacent counties for additional support. Every effort will be made to support local equipment and personnel needs when requested and to integrate local resources when appropriate into a regional or statewide response.
- E. At the request of local officials, ESF-9 will coordinate the state search and rescue response. Whenever possible, ESF-9 will stage assets before actual requests are forwarded. When state assets are exhausted, or in anticipation of large-scale disasters beyond the state's capability, ESF-9 will coordinate procurement of other state or federal assets. ESF-9 will integrate the use of all search and rescue personnel and resources made available. However, implementation of state search and rescue response will be in accordance with the Incident Command System structure.
- F. The Firefighter Mobilization Act of 2000 mobilizes fire and rescue services statewide to respond to any type of emergency that requires additional resources. ESF-9 will use the mobilization plan to obtain additional fire and rescue resources, as needed.
- G. ESF-9 will coordinate deployment of liaison staff to county EOCs and/or the local unified command post, to support the implementation of this plan and supporting SOP.

IV. ESF ACTIONS

The emergency operations necessary for the performance of this function include, but are not limited to:

A. Preparedness

1. Maintain a current inventory of resources, including qualified trained personnel, which could support search and rescue operations. Maintain records reflecting local capability.
2. Participate in state exercises and conduct, at least annually, an ESF-9 exercise to validate this annex and supporting SOPs.
3. Maintain liaison with federal urban search and rescue assets and plan for reception of external assets.
4. Maintain personnel and equipment in a state of readiness appropriate to existing and anticipated emergency conditions to include mobilizing resources and staging them at various locations.
5. Assist local governments in training of personnel and rescue organizations for search and rescue operations.
6. Plan for the deployment of US Army Corps of Engineers structures specialists and System to Locate Survivors (STOLS).
7. Annually review the Department of Homeland Security Universal Task List and integrate tasks as appropriate.
8. Ensure all ESF-9 personnel integrate NIMS principles in all planning. All ESF personnel will complete all required NIMS training, as outlined in the 2006 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) training guidance.

B. Response

1. Support local agencies with appropriate resources, to include mobilizing and deploying teams and equipment as needed.
2. Using an incident command system, assume responsibility for coordinating and tracking all resources committed to an incident. This may include placing personnel at a forward command post. Establish staging areas with the requesting group.
3. Deploy liaison teams to county EOC or incident base of operations, as needed.
4. Plan for and establish relief resources to replace or rotate with committed resources for extended operations.

5. Coordinate other state and federal support for search and rescue operations to include planning for reception and deployment to area of operations.
6. Request US Army Corps of Engineers structures specialists and System to Locate Survivors (STOLS), as appropriate.
7. Coordinate with ESF-1 for use of buses to transport rescue teams or rescued victims or persons evacuated from an emergency area to a safe location or emergency shelter.

C. Recovery

1. Continue to support local operations and plan for a reduction of operations.
2. Inventory any lost or damaged equipment and record any personnel injuries or equipment accidents.
3. Anticipate and plan for arrival of, and coordination with, FEMA ESF-9 personnel in the SEOC and the Joint Field Office (JFO).
4. Require ESF-9 team members and their agencies maintain appropriate records of costs incurred during the event.

D. Mitigation

1. Support and plan for mitigation measures.
2. Support requests and directives resulting from the Governor and/or FEMA concerning mitigation and/or re-development activities.
3. Document matters that may be needed for inclusion in agency or state/federal briefings, situation reports and action plans.

V. **RESPONSIBILITIES**

A. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; Division of Fire and Life Safety

1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to staff ESF-9 in the SEOC.
2. Notify all ESF-9 supporting agencies upon activation.
3. Identify and maintain a current resource inventory of all search and rescue assets within the state.

4. Identify and train liaison teams.
5. Coordinate search and rescue team deployment to, employment in, and redeployment from disaster area.
6. Coordinate logistical support for search and rescue assets during field operations.
7. Develop policies and procedures for the effective use and coordination of search and rescue assets.
8. Coordinate structures specialists and System to Locate Survivors (STOLS) through US Army Corps of Engineers.
9. Coordinate South Carolina urban search and rescue assets to support urban search and rescue operations.

B. Department of Natural Resources, Division of Law Enforcement

1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-9 during periods of activation.
2. Plan, coordinate, and execute rural search and rescue operations.
3. Provide search and rescue teams, technical assistance, equipment, and communications support.

C. Department of Health and Environmental Control

1. Identify, train, and assign DHEC personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-9 during periods of activation.
2. Provide technical information, EMS, and hazardous materials technical assistance teams.

D. Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

1. Identify, train, and assign PRT personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-9 during periods of activation.
2. Provide personnel for search operations.

- E. Department of Transportation, Division of Engineering
 - 1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-9 during periods of activation.
 - 2. Assist with debris removal and engineering support.
- F. Forestry Commission
 - 1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-9 during periods of activation.
 - 2. Provide communications, personnel, equipment, to include air assets, and transportation.
- G. SC Law Enforcement Division
 - 1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-9 during periods of activation.
 - 2. Provide security, personnel, tracking dogs, and air assets.
- H. Civil Air Patrol
 - 1. Identify, train, and assign personnel to maintain contact with and prepare to execute missions in support of ESF-9 during periods of activation.
 - 2. Provide aerial photography, still and video, during traffic surveillance missions with satellite and/or RF (radio frequency) links for image transmission to the SEOC, ECV and/or agencies equipped to receive, where possible.
 - 3. Provide personnel for rural search operations.

VI. FEDERAL INTERFACE

- A. This annex is supported by National Response Plan ESF-9 (Urban Search and Rescue). The Regional Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is authorized to provide federal assistance as emergency protective measures under the emergency and major disaster provisions of the National Response Plan. ESF-9 will generally be a part of the Emergency Response Team (ERT) and may be represented on the advance element of that team (ERT-A).

- B. ESF-9 rapidly deploys components of the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System to provide specialized lifesaving assistance. Operational activities include locating, extricating, and providing on-site medical treatment to victims trapped in collapsed structures. ESF-9 addresses only urban search and rescue and does not include any other form of search and rescue (e.g. water, wilderness, subterranean).
- C. The National US&R Response System is an integrated system of US&R task forces, Incident Support Teams (ISTs), and technical specialists.
 - 1. The system is built around a core of task forces primarily staffed by local emergency services personnel who are prepared to deploy immediately and initiate US&R operations. There are currently 28 organized in seven functional teams (management, search, rescue, planning, logistics, medical, and hazmat), with each team staffed to permit 24-hour operations. On activation, US&R task forces become federal assets.
 - 2. ISTs provide coordination and logistical support to US&R task forces during emergency operations. They also provide needs assessments and provide technical advice.
 - 3. Technical specialists provide expertise in various US&R disciplines to supplement task force and IST resources.
- D. All ESF-9 personnel will be familiar with the National Response Plan (NRP) and the corresponding annex with Federal counterpart concepts, actions and responsibilities. This familiarization will include but not be limited to the make up, functions and responsibilities of the Emergency Response Team – Advanced Element (ERT-A), Interagency Incident Management Groups (IIMG) and the Joint Field Office (JFO).
- E. State ESF-9 will coordinate with Federal ESF-9 to obtain federal assistance as required.

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